

Ref.: MC/COP4/2021/120

Geneva, 20 December 2021

Subject: Invitation to the second segment of the fourth meeting of the Conference of Parties of the Minamata Convention on Mercury (21–25 March 2022), Bali, Indonesia

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to invite you to the second segment of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP-4.2) which is to be held from 21 to 25 March 2022 in Bali, Indonesia, in accordance with Decision MC-4/1 on the dates of the resumed COP-4. The meeting will be preceded by in-person regional preparatory meetings on 19 and 20 March 2022.

The continued circulation of COVID-19 and the emergence of a new variant has given rise to new measures in some countries. The secretariat will continue to monitor and evaluate the situation and make possible adjustments to COP-4.2, in close collaboration with the host country, Indonesia, and in full consultation with the COP-4 Bureau. In the meantime, it is imperative for the secretariat to launch a registration process for COP-4.2 as soon as possible.

The online segment of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties held on 1-5 November 2021 (COP-4.1) decided on the Convention's programme of work and budget for 2022 and the dates of the resumed fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and considered additional time-sensitive items, namely, financial resources and mechanism and more specifically Global Environment Facility, national reporting, and the effectiveness evaluation. COP-4.2 is expected to consider and/or resume consideration of all items on the agenda of the fourth meeting. The COP-4 agenda, as adopted by COP-4.1, is included in Annex I to this letter. Matters for consideration during COP-4.2 are set out in part II of Annex I of the annotated agenda of COP-4 ([UNEP/MC/COP.4/1/Add.1](#)).

The working languages of COP-4.2 will be Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Official documents for the meeting are available on the Convention [website](#).

Logistical and other information relevant to the meeting, including on registration, credentials, COVID-19 related measures and entry requirements, and assistance to representatives from developing-country parties and parties with economies in transition is included in Annex II to this letter. If needed, adjustments to the information provided in Annex II will be communicated to parties as soon as available.

More information on the meeting, including on COVID-related measures and on recommended hotels will be made available on the [meeting website](#). Delegates are invited to regularly check the meeting website for updates and send an email to MEA-MinamataMeetings@un.org should they require further information.

I hope you are keeping yourselves safe and healthy through these challenging times and look forward to the participation of your Government in this important meeting as part of your continuing commitment to making mercury history.

Yours sincerely,



Monika Stankiewicz
Executive Secretary

To: National focal points for the Minamata Convention on Mercury
Governments through their official channels of communication with the United Nations Environment Programme

Cc: Permanent missions to the United Nations Environment Programme and to the United Nations in Geneva
Bureau of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury

Annex I

Agenda of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (b) Organization of work;
 - (c) Election of officers for the intersessional period and the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
 - (d) Report on the credentials of representatives to the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
3. Rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties: consideration of rule 45.
4. Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the Parties:
 - (a) Mercury-added products and manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used:
 - (i) Review of annexes A and B;
 - (ii) Information on dental amalgam;
 - (iii) Customs codes;
 - (iv) Proposals for amendments to annexes A and B;
 - (b) Artisanal and small-scale gold mining;
 - (c) Releases of mercury;
 - (d) Mercury waste: consideration of the relevant thresholds;
 - (e) Financial resources and mechanism:
 - (i) Global Environment Facility;
 - (ii) Specific International Programme to Support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance;
 - (iii) Review of the financial mechanism;
 - (f) Capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer;
 - (g) Implementation and Compliance Committee;
 - (h) National reporting;
 - (i) Effectiveness evaluation;
 - (j) Secretariat;
 - (k) Financial rules;
 - (l) Gender.
5. International cooperation and coordination.
6. Programme of work and budget.
7. Dates of the resumed fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties; venue and dates of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of the report of the meeting.
10. Closure of the meeting.

Annex II

Logistical and other information about the meeting

1. Becoming a party in time for the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

The Minamata Convention entered into force on 16 August 2017, the ninetieth day after the date of deposit of the fiftieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. For each State or regional economic integration organization that ratifies, accepts or approves the Convention or accedes thereto after the deposit of the fiftieth instrument, the Convention will enter into force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit by such State or regional economic integration organization of its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. Hence, in order to be parties to the Minamata Convention at the time of COP-4.2 (on 21-25 March 2021), countries and regional economic integration organizations that have not yet done so should deposit their instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession with the United Nations Secretary-General, who is the depositary of the Convention, **no later than Tuesday, 21 December 2021**. The updated list of parties can be found on the [Convention website](#).

2. Registration

Taking into account the ongoing pandemic measures, parties are encouraged to limit the number of their representatives present physically in Bali. To facilitate participation, provision will be made to allow delegations from parties and observers to follow the proceedings of the meeting virtually (in viewer mode).

The names, titles and contact information of your designated representatives (including postal addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses) should be communicated to the secretariat using the pre-registration platform that will be available **from 17 January 2022**.

Furthermore, parties are requested to send to the secretariat an official nomination letter from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or a *note verbale* from the Permanent Mission of the party to the United Nations Office at Geneva. Early registration is encouraged so please send pre-registration documents to MEA-MinamataMeetings@un.org as soon as possible. The deadline for pre-registration is **11 February 2022**.

Please note that the completion of the registration process is subject to the submission of all required information and the nomination letter and subsequent confirmation by the secretariat. The secretariat will evaluate the total number of pre-registered delegates and the maximum capacity of the meeting venue in compliance with COVID-related measures before confirming the registration of delegates. Delegates are invited not to make travel arrangements before receiving the registration confirmation from the secretariat.

Parties who have already submitted their official nominations for participation in both COP-4.1 and COP-4.2 do not need to re-submit their nominations for COP-4.2 if no change in the delegation list is required.

In the nomination process of delegates to the meeting, parties are strongly encouraged to ensure balanced gender representation within their delegations.

3. Credentials of parties

In order to take part in decision-making at the meeting, parties must be accredited. Credentials for the head of delegation, alternate representatives and advisers are issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. In the case of a regional economic integration organization, credentials should be issued by the competent authority of that organization. Information regarding any change in the composition of the delegation should be submitted using the same procedure.

Samples of credentials are available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish on the Minamata Convention website's [COP-4 webpage](#).

The COP-4 Bureau, at its meeting of 16 June 2021, agreed on its approach for preparing the report on credentials for the two segments of COP-4. Bureau members agreed that if copies of credentials in good order were submitted instead of originals, they would accept such copies with the understanding that the originals would be submitted as soon as possible thereafter.

Parties are invited to submit original or electronic versions of credentials **by Monday, 21 February 2022** to facilitate the clearance process. At the latest, credentials shall be submitted to the secretariat no later than twenty-four hours after the opening of the meeting.

Parties who have already submitted their credentials for participation in both COP-4.1 and COP-4.2 do not need to re-submit their credentials for COP-4.2 but are welcome to update their credentials as needed.

Original credentials can be sent to:

The Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury
United Nations Environment Programme
Avenue de la Paix 8-14, 1211
Geneva 10, Switzerland

Electronic copies of credentials can be sent to MEA-MinamataMeetings@un.org.

COVID-19 related measures

The Indonesian authorities plan to put in place rigorous policies to ensure safety of participants at COP-4.2. All delegates are required to take **PCR test** within a maximum period of **3x24 hours** before departure from the airport of origin, with a negative result.

Delegates must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19, proven by a **COVID-19 vaccination certificate**. If any delegate cannot get a full dose of vaccine due to comorbidity or other health reason, the delegate must enclose an official health declaration form explaining such condition from Health Officials.

In accordance with Indonesia's COVID-19 health and safety protocol, prior to departure for Indonesia, all travelers entering Indonesia are required to fill in Electronic Health Alert Card (EHAC) at the "PeduliLindungi," an application developed by the Indonesian government to monitor the COVID-19 cases, and to verify vaccination certificate through <https://vaksinln.dto.kemkes.go.id/sign/in>.

The secretariat strongly recommends that each participant carefully review their health insurance to ensure sufficient coverage in case of medical needs while in Bali. It is also strongly recommended for participants to secure additional travel insurance if the health insurance does not cover extended stays/delays related to quarantine that may be required as a result of a positive COVID-19 test.

As conditions continue to evolve, more information on COVID-related requirements will be posted on the meeting website as soon as it becomes available. Any changes with the health protocol policy will be promptly communicated to delegates.

Physical distancing measures at the venue, including the establishment of a security zone around the venue, will also be observed. During the days of the meeting, all delegates will be required to take the rapid antigen test daily. Rapid antigen tests are to be administered at the designated hotels prior to delegates departing for

the meetings and at the venue. A negative test result is valid for 24 hours and is required to enter the meeting venue of the following day.

To allow sufficient planning for the meeting, the secretariat circulated an International Travel Readiness Survey for COP-4.2 on 18 November 2021 to all National Focal Points to assist the secretariat and Indonesia in the travel and health preparations for COP-4.2. In addition, parties should inform the secretariat as soon as possible and **by 11 February 2022** at the latest if they foresee that it will not be possible for their delegation to travel to Bali due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions.

4. Requirements for entry into Indonesia including visa

All participants are responsible for obtaining their visa for entering Indonesia, as well as any necessary transit visa(s), as appropriate. Visa support letters can be provided by the secretariat upon request.

Delegates can use either diplomatic and service passports or ordinary passports to enter Indonesia.

Indonesia's government has a short visit visa exemption agreement with several countries for diplomatic and service passport holders. The List of Agreements on Mutual Visa Exemption between the Republic of Indonesia and Foreign Countries can be found at: kem.lu/visaddservice. Delegates with nationalities from countries on the said list can enter Indonesia without visa using diplomatic and service passport. These delegates must bring official invitation letter and approved delegation accreditation from the Government of Indonesia, negative RT-PCR test result taken within a maximum period of **3x24 hours** before departure, proof of hotel reservation during stay in Indonesia, and show vaccination certificate through "PeduliLindungi" app upon arrival.

Delegates who are holders of diplomatic passports, service/official passports and UNLP passports but are not entitled for a visa exemption scheme, must submit their visa application to Embassies and Consulates of the Republic of Indonesia accredited to or stationed in the respective countries. To obtain a visa to enter into Indonesia delegates will be required to submit:

1. Diplomatic Note or Organization Letter to the Embassy/Consulate of the Republic of Indonesia, requesting for visa;
2. Approved Delegation Accreditation from the Minamata Convention secretariat;
3. Covid-19 vaccination certificate (full dose). If delegate cannot get a full dose of vaccine due to comorbidity or other health reason, the delegate must enclose an official health declaration form explaining such condition from authorized Health Officials;
4. Travel itinerary to the Republic of Indonesia;
5. Proof of hotel reservation during stay in Indonesia.

Delegates who hold ordinary passport (outside diplomatic, service/official and UNLP passports) should apply visa online through <https://visa-online.imigrasi.go.id/>.

Please bear in mind that due to challenges of COVID-19 situation, the visa process will take approximately **two weeks**. In that regard, parties are encouraged to nominate delegates as soon as possible to the secretariat. After receiving list of accredited delegates from the secretariat, the Government of Indonesia will issue official invitation letter to all registered delegates. Delegates will need to attach the invitation letter when applying for a visa.

5. Assistance to representatives from developing country parties and parties with economies in transition

Financial assistance may be available to support the participation of **one** participant per eligible developing-country party and party with economy in transition.

The official nomination letter referred to above should indicate that the individual concerned is the delegate whom the Government has designated to receive financial assistance.

Please note that pursuant to UN travel rules, strict adherence to the pre-registration deadline of **11 February 2022** is required for sponsored participants. It is not possible to guarantee support for, and organization of, travel for participants nominated after that date.

Instructions on travel arrangements for sponsored participants will be issued following the confirmation of the registration by the secretariat. Air travel for sponsored participants will be arranged according to the United Nations regulations and rules, via the most economical means in all cases.

6. Further information

For further information about COP-4.2, please send an email to MEA-MinamataMeetings@un.org or consult our website mercuryconvention.org.